## **Amendments to the Claims**

## 1-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently amended) A process for purifying 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole represented by the formula (I):

which consists essentially ofcomprises:

treating a crude 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole represented by the formula (I) with a lower alcohol, and then

distilling the treated 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole.

- **8.** (**Previously presented**) The process for purifying 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole according to claim 7, wherein the crude 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole is treated with the lower alcohol by adding the lower alcohol to the crude 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole, followed by stirring.
- 9. (Previously presented) The process for purifying 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole according to claim 7, wherein the crude 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole is a reaction mixture obtained by reacting a 2-halogenoallyl isothiocyanate represented by the general formula (II):

$$\begin{array}{c|c} & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & \\ & & & \\ & &$$

wherein Hal represents a chlorine atom or a bromine atom, with a chlorinating agent in the presence of a solvent, or

wherein the crude 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole is a residue obtained by distilling the solvent from the reaction mixture.

- 10. (Previously presented) The process for purifying 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole according to claim 9, wherein the crude 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole is a residue obtained by distilling the solvent from the reaction mixture.
- 11. (Previously presented) The process for purifying 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole according to claim 7, wherein the lower alcohol is methanol.
- 12. (Previously presented) The process for purifying 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole according to claim 8, wherein the lower alcohol is methanol.
- 13. (Previously presented) The process for purifying 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole according to claim 9, wherein the lower alcohol is methanol.
- **14.** (**Previously presented**) The process for purifying 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole according to claim 10, wherein the lower alcohol is methanol.
- 15. (Previously presented) The process for purifying 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole according to claim 9, wherein Hal is a chlorine atom.
- 16. (Previously presented) The process for purifying 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole according to claim 10, wherein Hal is a chlorine atom.

- 17. (Previously presented) The process for purifying 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole according to claim 13, wherein Hal is a chlorine atom.
- 18. (Previously presented) The process for purifying 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole according to claim 14, wherein Hal is a chlorine atom.